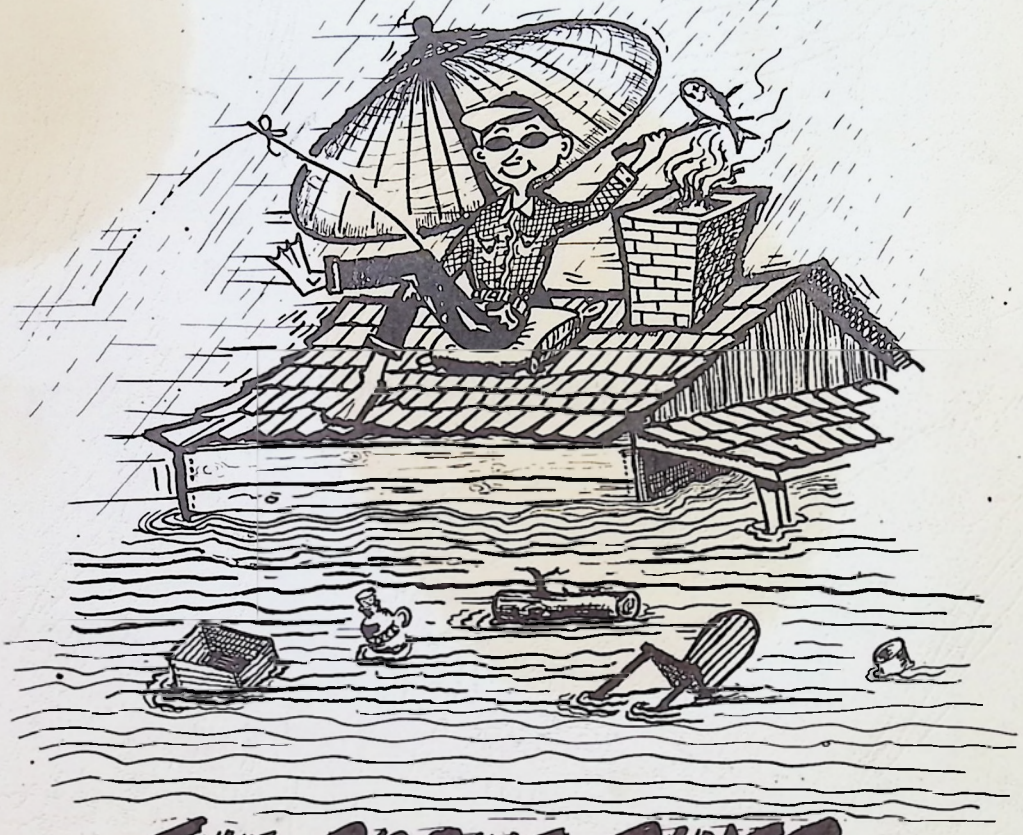
THE FLOOD OF CHRISTMAS WEEK 1964



THE ROGUE RIVER ON A RAMPAGE

By HAL MADDOX

Elizabeth Balch

Photographs courtesy of
The Citizens of Rogue River, Oregon

Aerial Photos by Glunz

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHRISTMAS WEEK FLOOD

Monday, December 21st—

The third day of heavy rain totaling 5.15 inches for the three day period.

Temperatures:

	High	Low
December 19	43	32
20	46	38
21	60	42

Evidence of tenseness was everywhere as the river continued to rise. Many felt that another flood of average magnitude would take place and those affected in the '62 flood will "get it again." The ultimate of floods, the one of '55 would not be duplicated, that's for sure. So, before evacuating river homes, household effects were moved upstairs, drapes pulled up higher, just above the high water mark of '62, and of course many moved out completely. Bob Gail had built his new market high and dry with no chance of repeat performances like the '55 and '62 floods.

Tuesday, December 22nd—

Rainfall: 2.00 inches.

Temperature: High 65, Low 50.

River level at 8:00 a.m.: 24.52 feet.

Freezing level: 10,000 feet.

Warm air and warm rain all over Oregon! Crater Lake had 90 inches of packed snow which was melting rapidly with the aid of rain and high temperatures. The same was true of all mountain areas. Streams filled to overflowing. Rivers followed suit.

Still no one panicked because this was just another flood. Everyone just took it in stride. By late afternoon the river had equalled the '62 stage. The weather bureau reported the river would crest at 24 feet by midnight. After cresting the Rogue River reportedly dropped a little.

Wednesday, December 23, 1965:

Rainfall: 1 inch.

Temperature: High 58, Low 40.

Then it started to rise and kept on rising. At 4:00 a.m. the river was well above the 1955 level. In fact those residing along the river in the vicinity of the town of Rogue River measured water levels of 4 feet above the 1955 flood. Damage was great and many lost the accumulations of a life time. By the grace of God, not one human life was lost due to the flood on the Rogue River.

Even though the flood stage or actual river depths may vary along the river, the Grants Pass readings are used as an idex to water levels at the town of Rogue River and other areas, too.

Flood stage at Grants Pass: 22 feet.

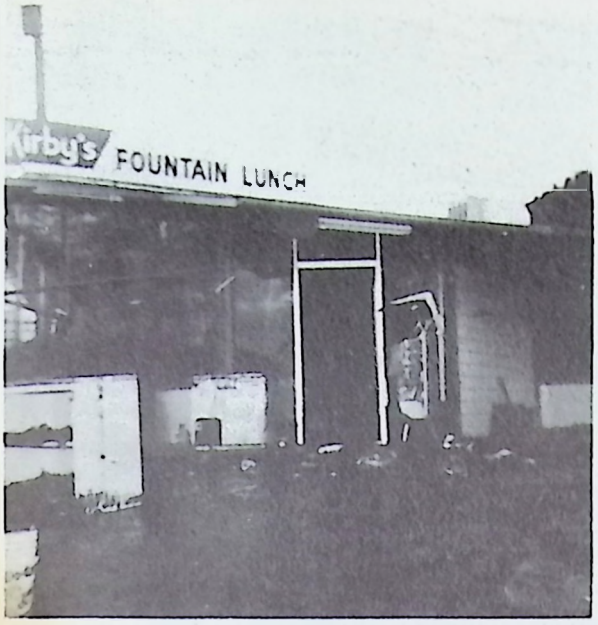
River crests:* 1955 Flood, ... 30.16 feet

1962 Flood ..... 27.23 feet

1964 Flood ..... 34.15 feet

* The above figures are those given at the Grants Pass filtration plant. Weather report figures are from the Grants Pass Weather Station and Filtration plant.

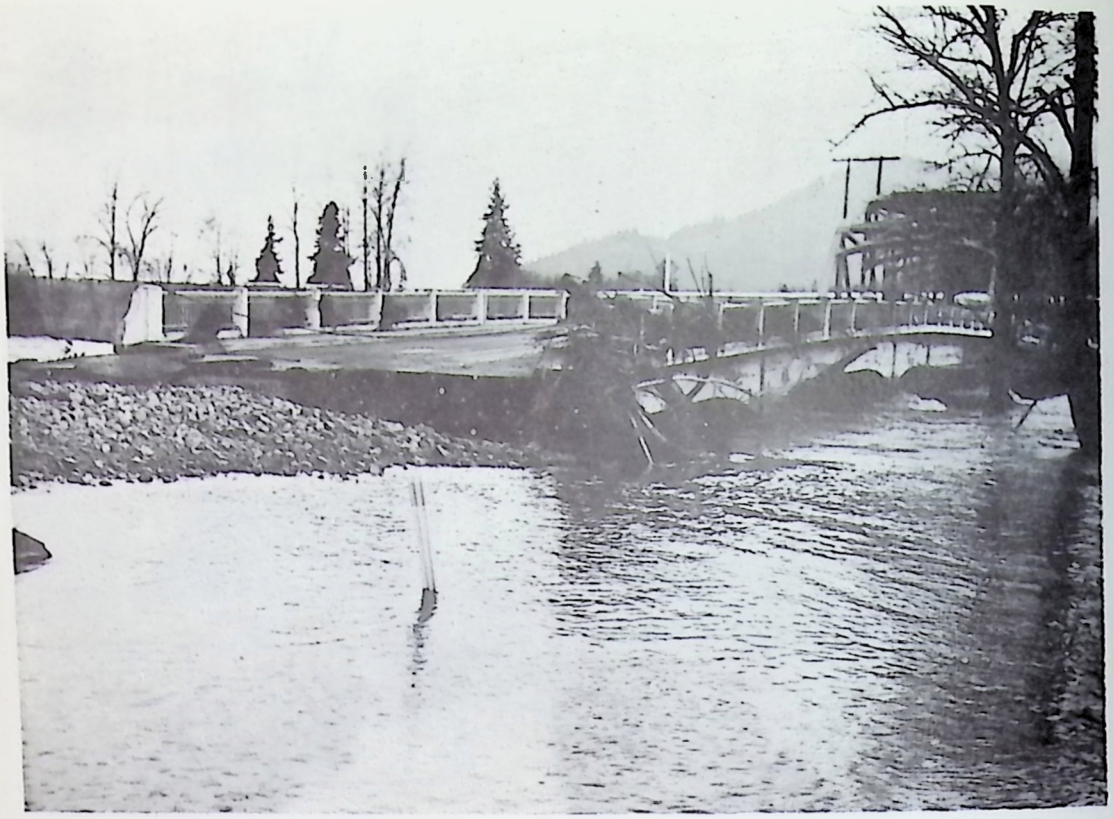
No jest is intended toward the victims of this disaster as the cover of this book may imply. Because most of the people hurt by the flood were able to display a philosophical attitude toward the situation and even find some humorous aspects in it, a cover of this design seems very fitting.



Kirby's Cafe after the water subsided. Eight and a half feet of water and a foot of goo inside.

The front of Jim Purinton's garage.

A clean-up crew at Bob Gail's Market. This is Bob's third experience with the wild Rogue River.



Approach to the Rogue River bridge from the south side.

W. K. Nixon's home west of the Rogue River bridge. A guest house and garage were swept away but the house stayed. Six feet of water inside.

Ted Smith, Don Parrot and Jerry Guillin participate in the evacuation of the Leslie home on Fielder Lane. The water rose at least 12 feet inside.

East of the Rogue River bridge.

East of Rogue River.

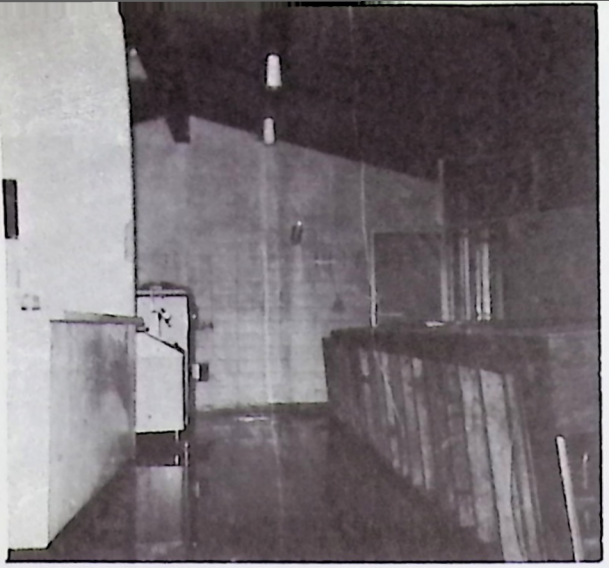
The Tom Buntin Home. Tom was so busy helping others evacuate that when he came home it was too late to help himself. The family lost everything

In front of Olivers Rogue Valley Motel. The highway is out there someplace.

The roads were left in ruin at the Valley of the Rogue State Park.

Bill Gooley's Motel. Four feet of water inside.

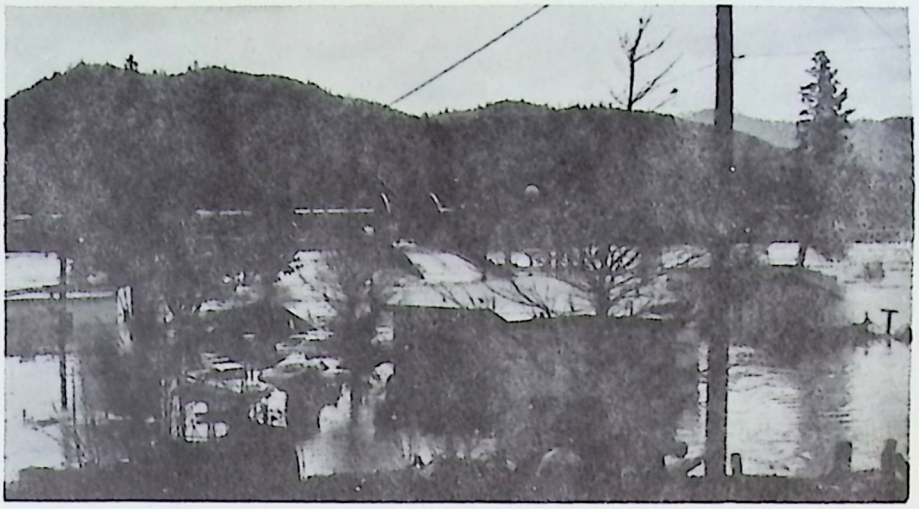
Hatfield's home on Lansiedel Lane. Twisted and broken, a total wreck.



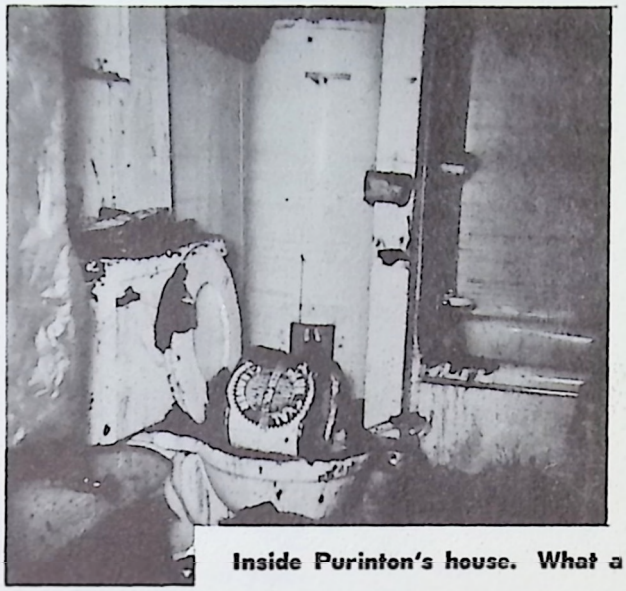
Inside of Kerby's Cafe 8½ feet of water and a foot of muck. A counter, tables and chairs washed down the river.

Knotty Pine Motel badly damaged. Just west of the bridge on the Rogue River Highway.

Jim Purinton took a terrific beating. His garage collapsed on his equipment. The front was torn away by logs and rests farther down the highway.



Lower left: Jim Purinton's house. Right: Gail's Market parking lot.



Inside Purinton's house. What a sad sight.

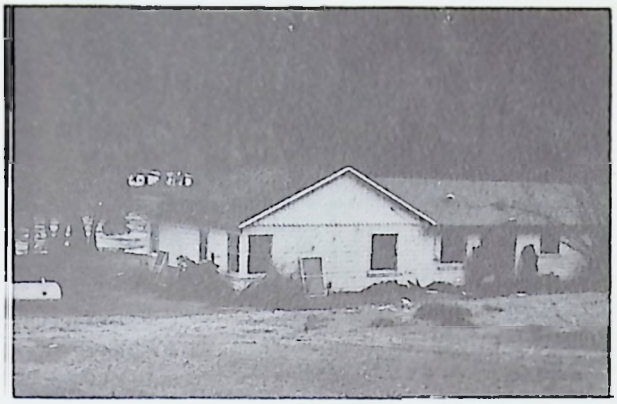
Looking toward the Nic-Nac Hobby Shop which is now the Scout Hut.

The hop yards on Lower River Road outside of Grants Pass as viewed from the air looking up stream.—By Glunz Studio

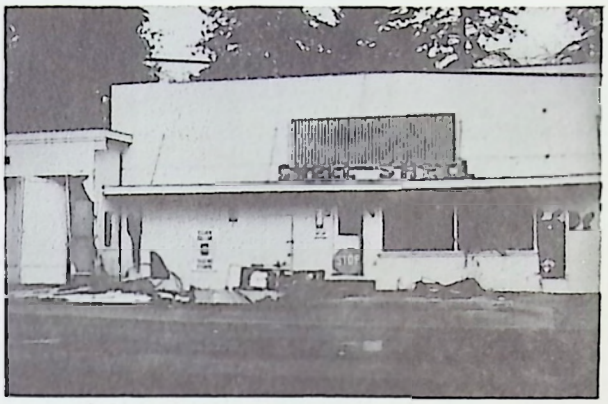
View down stream. County Fairgrounds shop buildings lower left corner off West Park Street.—By Glunz Studio

The carport was ruined by the flood. So . . . up goes a new garage in its place. On Fielder Lane.

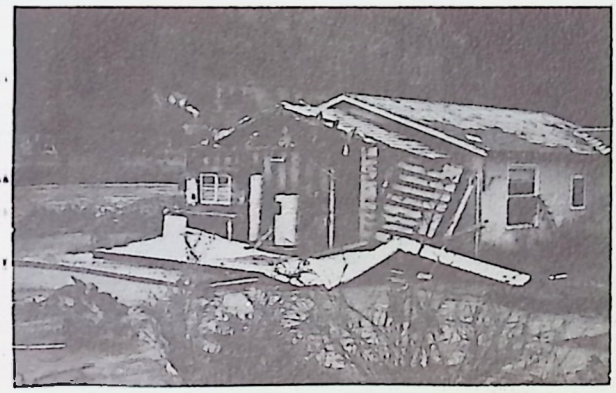
Water, water, everywhere!



The John Harr home on Fielder Lane. Twelve feet of water inside.



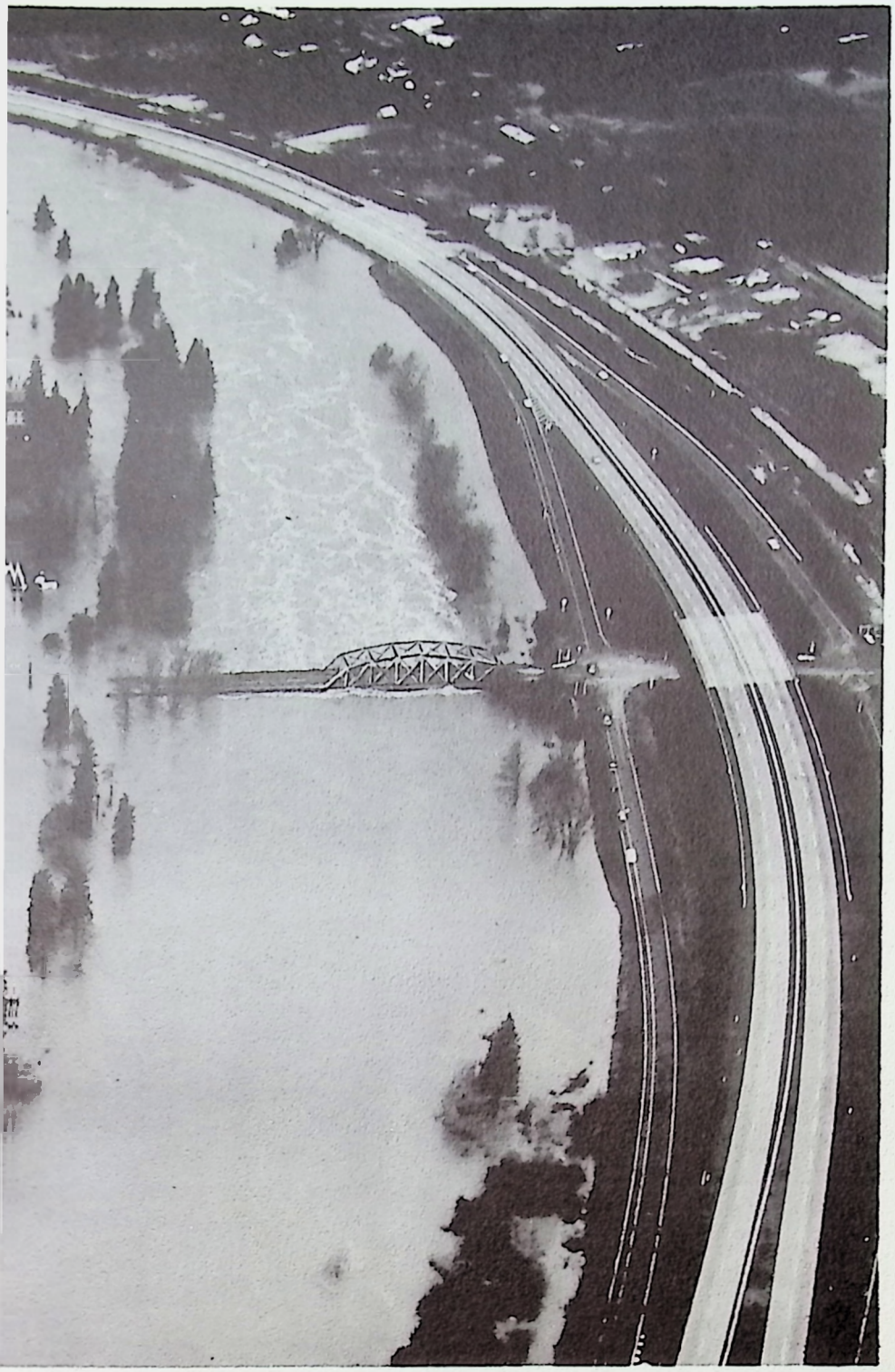
West of the Rogue River bridge.



Fraiser's home on Fielder Lane—15 feet of water.

The Hot Dog Stand near the Rod and Reel Motel west of Rogue River.

The Town of Rogue River is at t
the Rogue River bridge is Gail's
Station, Kerby's Fountain Lunch,
a barber shop, P.P.&L. substati
homes. The water was as high a



right of this photograph. Left of arket. Just below is the Chevron llonel Hopkins Real Estate Office, Bab's Welding Shop and many en feet in some of these buildings.

Paul Simon's home after the water subsided. Mounds of silt up to five feet high were left inside. Water was about 12 feet deep here.

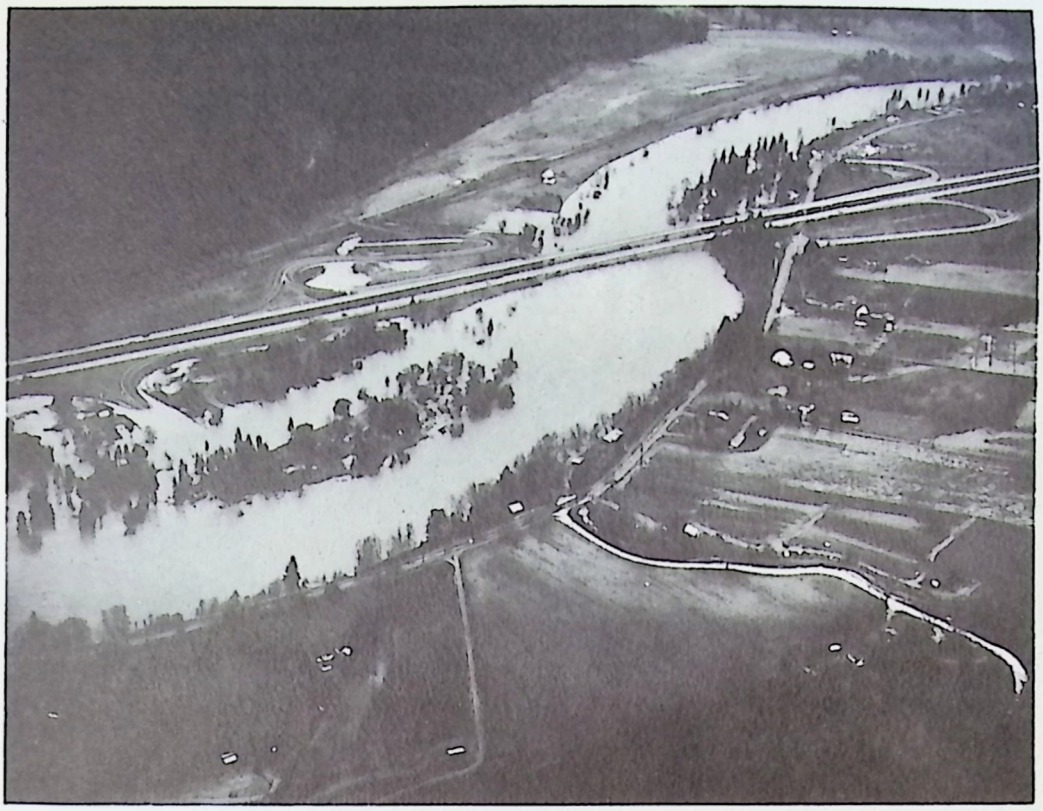
On Lansiedel Lane.

Miller's home on Lansiedel Lane.

Rogers' home had four feet of water inside in 1955. They raised the house four feet and added a new foundation. In this flood the water came up four feet higher than 1955, so . . . four feet of water inside.

Terry's home has been in four floods. Repairs are planned.

Dell and Maurine Kirby's house. A complete loss. Another house hit it and away it went to another



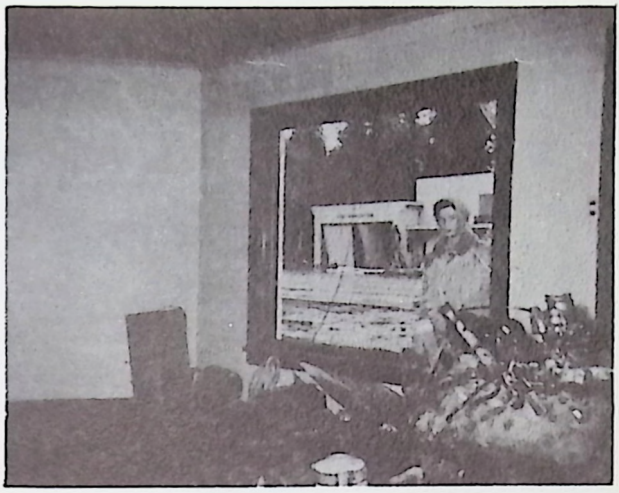
Valley of the Rogue State Park, three miles east of Rogue River.—By Glunz Studio.

Aerial view of Grants Pass City Park in the center and left of river. Looking down river.—By Glunz Studio

A section of someone's home is swept away by the rampaging Rogue. The hop yards on Lower River Road outside of Grants Pass as viewed from the air looking up stream.

Yoncy's house. Practically all houses on both sides were swept away.

Dell and Maurine Kirby's house.



Inside the old shoe shop. About nine foot of water. Shell station is across the highway.

Inside the Bridge Tavern, 9 feet of water and lots of gooey silt.

Near Bob's Marina. House after house was lost. Not much left here. Near Bob's Marina.

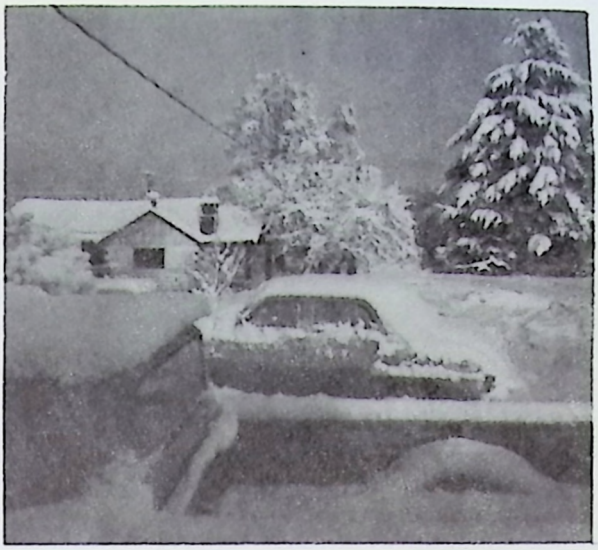
The Laurels Motel received heavy damage. Here the dining room and its contents were washed away when a huge log literally tore it loose.

All that's left are the mail boxes.

Inside the Linen room of the Laurels Motel. Three feet of water inside.

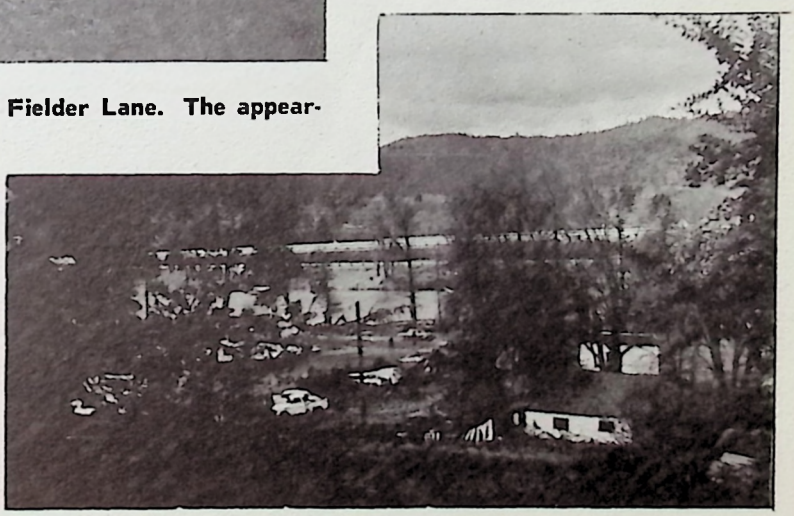
Hop yards on Lower River Road west of Grants Pass.

Damage was heavy here.



A picturesque snow scene at the Trickey's after the flood.

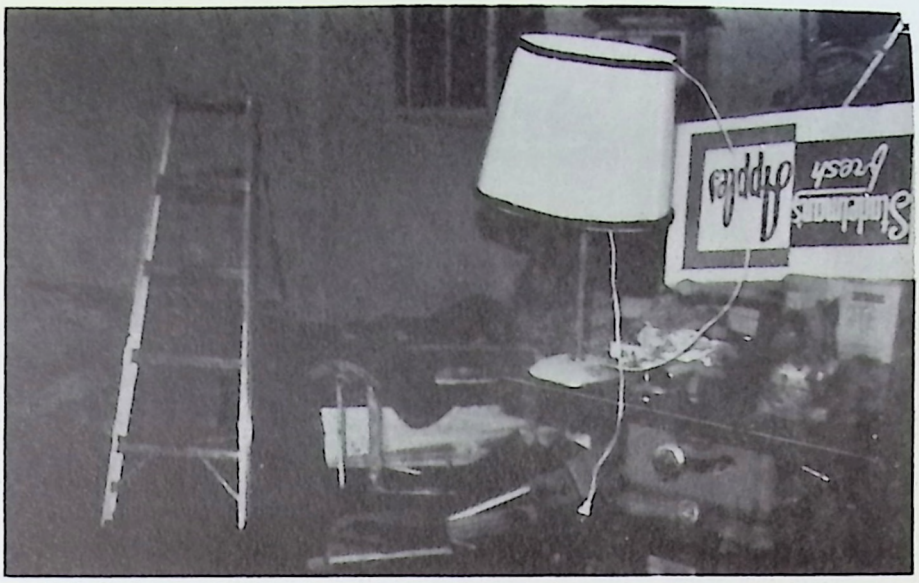
The Johnson's home on Fielder Lane. The appearance speaks for itself.



Watching the river rise as viewed from the high ground at the rear of Gail's Market.

Looking down Lansiedel Lane. Paul Simon's home with roof barely out of the water.

This trailer washed off it's parking spot and tipped over. Near Nixon's place west of the Shangri-La. The owners were in California during the flood.



Inside of William "Red" MacDonald's place on Evans Creek inside the city limits of Rogue River. Three feet of water and lots of silt.

Hatfield's home on Lansiedel Lane. Twisted and broken, a total wreck.

This is Dewey Felsko's house on Fielder Lane. Like most houses along here, it was totaled out.

Bobbie Bellamy of Fielder Lane gallan family Christmas tree.

Bellamy's house on Fielder Lane. Eighteen feet of water. A complete loss.

Another view of the south end of the Rogue River bridge.

FIELDER LANE at Rogue River was one of the hardest hit of area residential sections by the flood waters. Several houses vanished and all were damaged. This well-kept (before the flood) home has about six inches of mud throughout and the garage roof dropped to the ground as the current undermined the walls. Atop it, surveying the damage, are Fielder Lane residents C. V. Bellamy, left, and Max Paisley.

THE STILL-STANDING chimney of this Fielder Lane home, owned by C. V. Bellamy, shows how high this house once stood, but the Rogue River paid no heed to architecture, and knocked out several of the home's walls, dropping the roof and upper story onto one end.

RECORD

Name .....

Address .....

Depth of water in home or business .....

Loss estimate of buildings .....

Loss estimate of furniture .....

Loss estimate of furnishings .....

Loss estimate of clothing .....

Loss estimate of appliances .....

Loss estimate of tools .....

Loss estimate of autos or trucks .....

Loss estimate of farm equipment .....

Loss estimate of livestock .....

Loss estimate of house trailers .....

Loss estimate of other .....

We received disaster relief from the following:

Rogue River Community Chest .....

Red Cross .....

Civil Defense .....

Federal Agency .....

How do you rate the above, ...

.....

.....

E. Balch